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CEREMONIES

ACCOMPANYING THE

Presentation of the Magellanic Premium

BY THE

American Philosophical Society,

TO

PROF. L. M. HAUPT,

ON

MAY 4, 1888.

[Philadelphia 1888]

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Ceremonies accompanying the Presentation of the Magellanic Premium, by the American Philosophical Society, to Prof. L. M. Haupt, on May 4th, 1888.

The Committee appointed December 16, 1887, to prepare the Magellanic Medal, reported that the same was now ready and delivered it to the President, who gave it to Prof. L. M. Haupt with the following address:

"Prof. Haupt, it is a great gratification to me, both personally and officially, to present to you the Magellanic Premium, which has been awarded by the American Philosophical Society for your essay on 'The Physical Phenomena of Harbor Entrances, their Causes and Remedies.' This essay treats of matters of great national importance, and your discussion of them will greatly tend to the improvement of the methods now in use for effecting the permanent removal of the obstacles in our harbors and rivers, which are so dangerous to navigation and are so full of risk to the lands and buildings along their shore-lines. A glance at the map of the United States will show the great number of our navigable rivers and the vast extent of coast-lines, and their valuable and important harbor entrances. And it is therefore important that the money appropriated for their improvement and enlargement shall be wisely and scientifically expended. I think your suggestions will be found very valuable in securing stability to all artificial structures that may be erected in our great waters for their protection and convenient use, and you are therefore entitled to be honored as a public benefactor. The Magellanic Premium was established in the year 1786, and the records of the Society show that only six awards of the medal and one honorary pecuniary premium have been made within the century. Yours is therefore the seventh premium. It is thus shown that the terms under which the premium can be claimed are difficult to be

met, but you have filled them, and I sincerely and cordially congratulate you on your success."

Prof. Haupt made the following reply:

"Mr. President and fellow-members of the American Philosophical Society:—Accepting this estimable token of approval, which this distinguished Society has conferred upon the results of my investigations, it gives me great pleasure to express to you my grateful obligations for this unusual mark of approbation.

"The conditions accompanying applications for the Magellanic Premium being such as to eliminate entirely all personal elements, I felt that the opportunity of obtaining a critical and impartial investigation of my researches was thus admirably presented, and that no more competent body, organized for scientific research, could be found to pass judgment upon a matter which I deemed of great importance to the commercial, scientific and engineering development of our country.

"I was pleased, therefore, to embrace this opportunity of presenting the paper on 'The Physical Phenomena of Harbor Entrances' to the American Philosophical Society for consideration and action. Whatever value the paper may have, and the weight and influence it may exert in the future, in modifying the plans for meeting the difficult requirements of maritime works, are chiefly due to the careful and deliberate consideration which your Society and committees have given to the subject; and, deeply as I feel the honor, as well as the responsibility, which this approval of my labors places upon me, I earnestly hope you will permit me to state that, whatever may be my share of the merit conferred, it is but the reflection of that emanating from yourselves as members of this learned Society.

"To me your endorsement is at this time particularly encouraging, for already I find myself in the position of the pioneer who breaks loose from the well-trodden highways and seeks to discover a new path through the trackless waste. His task is full of responsibility, and he needs to keep well in view his landmarks; sometimes ahead, at others behind him. So I find myself looking back for my bearings whilst I am pressing forward toward the goal, which is the introduction of these plans at some suitable port of entry along our coast.

"The difficulties which I expected to find, and do find, in this effort are those resulting from conservatism and inertia of the Government machinery; but they are inherent to all development and furnish additional evidence of the soundness of the conclusions you have already reached. It is, therefore, with peculiar satisfaction that I look upon this medal, the seal of your approbation, not as upon an *ignis fatuus*, to lure me on to destruction, but as a talisman to encourage me in pursuing the way I have taken as one leading to a laudable end.

"The discussions, which opposition must provoke, should result in elucidating more clearly the principles embodied in these physical studies and in removing them more and more from the domain of theory and planting them upon the firmer foundations of fact.

"By this means they will be brought to the knowledge of the unprofessional reader and receive the support of those most directly interested in their application.

"I have observed that in dealing with physical questions, involving only inert matter, the problems are comparatively simple, whilst those of a social character which enter the domain of mind become exceedingly complex, yet these two classes appear to be almost inseparably related. In developing an engineering project, the first stage is that of mental conception and evolution; the second, that of education and propagation; and the third, that of execution or construction. It is in the second stage where the greatest difficulties are encountered, for it is always a difficult task to undertake to modify prevailing impressions. The contest is an unequal one, but when the changes proposed are based upon and allied to Truth they must ultimately prevail. Otherwise, they must as certainly fail, and this is therefore the crucial stage.

"A distinguished philosopher says: 'The best way to come to Truth is to examine things as really they are, and not to conclude they are as we fancy of ourselves, or have been taught by others to imagine.'

"If we could but lay aside previous impressions and prejudices it would be an easy matter to apply this advice to see things 'as really they are,' but, unfortunately, judgment is too often blinded by habit or education. This prevalent propensity of accepting statements without investigation, or of reaching conclusions from superficial observations, has led mankind into many errors which can only be removed by searching and impersonal discussions. Such discussions, therefore, should be welcomed as tending to the perfection of knowledge and the revelation of Truth.

"The studies which I have submitted to you have been my recreation and delight, and in pursuing them I have realized the truth and beauty contained in these lines from 'Thalaba :'

"'Learn thou, O young man,
God hath appointed wisdom the reward of study!
'Tis a well of living waters,
Whose inexhaustible bounties all might drink,
But few dig deep enough.'

"The treasures of wisdom are only to be unearthed by digging deeply, and I believe it accords with the experience of every investigator, that the deeper he delves the more treasure he discovers. Especially is this true when applied to investigations relative to the laws of the physical world, and, as each increment of knowledge is added to that already gleaned, the mind of the devout student becomes more and more fully impressed with the sense of his own impotence and of the infinite majesty and wis-

dom of Him who, from the beginning, conceived, created and continually maintains the universe; to whom belongs all the glory, praise and honor of our feeble efforts forever.

"This idea of our dependence upon the Supreme Being your committee have very happily embodied in the motto which they have placed upon the medal: '*Non mutare Dei leges, sed in hominum usum adhibere.*'" *

* NOTE.—The Medal is of gold, oval in form, two and a quarter inches long by one and seven-eighths wide. The inscription (in alto-relievo) on the obverse is :

THE
PREMIUM
OF
JOHN HYACINTH
DE MAGELLAN,
OF LONDON.

Around the margin and separated from the panel by a heavy laurel wreath, is the motto prepared for the committee, which reads "*Non Dei leges mutare, sed in hominum usum adhibere.*"

On the reverse,

AWARDED
BY THE
AMERICAN
PHILOSOPHICAL
SOCIETY
TO
LEWIS M. HAUPT,
for his discovery in
Physical Hydrography
and for his invention of
a System of Harbor
Improvement.

Around the margin :

Philadelphia, Pennsylvaniensis,
December, MDCCCLXXXVII.

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